GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3353
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
DIVERSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various States including Bihar have sought financial assistance for diversification of agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir. The States of Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have sought financialassistance for diversification of agricultural production in their State. No financial assistance has been sought by Bihar Government for this purpose.

(b): The State-wise details are as follows:

Punjab: The State Government of Punjab have submitted two proposals.Under one scheme they have sought financial assistance of Rs.1280 crores under crop diversification for shifting one million hectare ofland from rice-wheat system to oilseeds & pulses etc. In another proposal the Government of Punjab hassought an assistance of Rs.773.61 crores including 25% margin money to promote contract farming for diversification under Crop Adjustment Programme.

Haryana: The Government of Haryana has submitted the proposal for Crop Diversification under which anamount of Rs.960 crores has been sought as a compensation package for three years.

Maharashtra: The Government of Maharashtra has submitted a concept paper on AgriculturalIntensification & Diversification Project for an amount of Rs.1792.50 crores for seeking external assistance. The project has been designed for a period of five years to treat an area of 2.5 million hectare.

Uttar Pradesh: The State Government had sought financial assistance for diversification of Agricultureunder `Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agriculture Support Project` which was implemented during IX Plan withthe support of the World Bank. The State Government has sought extension for its second phase implementation during X Plan. The State Government has also submitted a proposal for Crop Diversification for an amount of Rs.145.58 crores for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09.

(c): The Agriculture diversification, especially from cereals to high value crops, has been emphasized bythe Planning Commission in Tenth Plan Document. The Union Government is supporting diversification initiatives of the State Governments.